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Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Letter dated 16 August 1999 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Marshall Islands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

At the request of the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, I have the honour to transmit to you the Majuro Statement on Climate Change. The Majuro Statement was adopted by the participants at the first Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) Workshop on the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol. The workshop was held at the Outrigger Resort Majuro from 14 to 16 July 1999, and was attended by experts from AOSIS, as well as from industrialized countries. Several United Nations agencies were represented.

As requested by the participants, my Government is seeking your assistance in having the Majuro Statement circulated as an official document of the United Nations under the agenda of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Jackeo A. **Relang**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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99-25278 (E) 070999

Annex

The Majuro Statement on Climate Change

The participants in the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) Workshop on the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Having met in Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands, from 14 to 16 July 1999:

Expressed their gratitude to His Excellency the President, the Government and the People of the Republic of the Marshall Islands for their timely invitation and generosity in hosting the workshop;

Recognized the importance of this first AOSIS workshop, and the significance of holding it in a low-lying small island State, noting that the Marshall Islands is acknowledged in studies by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to be especially vulnerable to the impacts and consequences of climate change. They also recognized that the situation and vulnerability of the Marshall Islands reflected the condition of other small island States, and underlined the urgency and seriousness of the concerns of the AOSIS countries;

Welcomed the presence at the workshop of important developed country partner the United Nations and regional organizations. AOSIS expressed deep appreciation for their generosity and support for the workshop;

Reaffirmed the ultimate objective as laid down in article 2 of the Convention, and recognized the commitments of parties included in annex I under article 3 of the Kyoto Protocol as an important first step in reaching that objective,

Noted the high importance of domestic action in achieving those commitments and that the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) could be an important tool for complying with part of these commitments through projects in countries not included in annex I of the Convention to assist them achieve sustainable development and contribute to the ultimate objective of the Convention;

Noted further that the CDM must become a credible and viable mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol and that the certified emission reductions generated by the CDM must be additional to that which would have otherwise occurred and should have real, measurable and long-term benefits related to the mitigation of climate change;

Stressed that the developing countries, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, because of their vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change and exposure to natural disasters, require special capacity-building initiatives;

Stressed further that vulnerability assessment and adaptation are of the highest priority to members of AOSIS and that the implementation of adaptation activities require, as essential components, capacity-building and the transfer of technology, and noted also the importance of renewable energy to small island States;

Resolved to work together constructively to make substantial progress on the decisions contained in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, within the time-frames set out therein, and for a timely entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, while accommodating the needs and reasonable expectations of all parties;

Resolved also to work together to coordinate donor activities and domestic priorities to more effectively address capacity-building and adaptation needs of small island

developing States, and recognized the Norway Small Island Developing States workshop, Australia's South Pacific workshop and the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme Climate Change conference and round table in the Cook Islands as key opportunities for addressing these;

Called for further work to be done on the issue of adaptation technology, especially for coastal zone management and protection;

Requested AOSIS and the delegation of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to bring this Statement to the attention of the international community, in particular through the twenty-second special session of the United Nations General Assembly to review the Barbados Programme of Action on the sustainable development of small island developing States, the Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention at its fifth session and to the relevant regional workshops and meetings.

First Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) workshop on the Clean Development Mechanism

Majuro, 16 July 1999